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DISSEMINATION BY THE LIVINGSTON GROUP, LLC

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We are encouraging the Special Envoy to bring with him to Washington the head of the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI), Corneille Nangaa, so that they can provide a briefing on the election plans in the DRC. You may have seen the enclosed communique (redacted) from the African Union noting "with satisfaction" the progress made by CENI on registering close to 98 percent of eligible voters.

THE LIVINGSTON GROUP PROVIDES REPRESENTATION FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, THROUGH MER SECURITY AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS LTD. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, WASHINGTON, DC.

African Union Communiqué on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) – 23 August 2017

The Peace and Security Council (Council) of the African Union (AU):

- **Notes with satisfaction** the progress made by the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) in the registration of close to 98 percent of eligible voters and **welcomes** the logistical support provided by the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) in the conduct of the operation.
 - The Council **encourages** the CENI to intensify its efforts to cover all the provinces in the country, particularly in Kasai, and **stresses**, to this end, the need for the international community to provide CENI with the necessary resources to enable it to complete the electoral processes.
- **Urges** the CENI, in consultation with the National Monitoring Council of the Agreement (CNSA) of 31 December 2016 and the Government, to objectively assess the entire electoral process in order to publish, as soon as possible, the electoral calendar.
- **Commends** the efforts made by regional organizations, particularly the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), to defuse tensions in the DRC and to promote an inclusive dialogue for the implementation of the Political Agreement of 31 December 2016, and **welcomes** the decisions of the 37th Ordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government of SADC recently held in Pretoria, South Africa from 19 to 20 August 2017 on the situation in the DRC as outlined ... in its Communiqué ... a number of challenges that have made it unrealistic for the DRC to hold elections in December 2017 as originally planned and urged the CENI to publicize the revised electoral calendar; urged all stakeholders to refrain from actions that would undermine the political and security stability with regard to developments, which led to the escalation of violence and insecurity in the Kasai Provinces; approved the appointment of a Special Envoy to the DRC; commended President Joseph Kabila, the Government of the DRC and the other stakeholders for progress made in implementing provisions of the 31 December 2016 Peace Agreement; and condemned the extra-continental interferences in AU Member States affairs, in particular, the unilateral practice of targeted sanctions against Congolese personalities by non-African organizations and countries.
- **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to take the necessary measures to dispatch a pre-electoral and security situation assessment mission to the DRC, as soon as possible, with the participation of representatives of Regional organizations, such as the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), the SADC and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and to report back to the Council.
 - In this regard, the Council **stresses** the need to strengthen the political role of the AU in the search for a solution to the crisis in the DRC as well as for the Chairperson of the Commission to enhance human resources required in the AU Liaison Office in the DRC.